No. 19

Raleigh, N. C.

August 5, 1948

SPECIAL ISSUE on PRICES and other CURRENT ITEMS

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS VARIABLE

The most noticeable changes in prices received by North Carolina farmers during mid-July occurred in small grains, cotton and meat animals. Compared with a month earlier, prices for wheat and rye dropped sharply with less significant decreases for oats and barley. Prices received for cotton and cottonseed declined considerably. However, these decreases in prices were almost completely offset by the increased prices received by farmers for hogs, beef cattle, veal calves, lambs, butterfat, eggs and several other minor agricultural commodities. For comparative figures reference should be made to the above table.

UNITED STATES PRICES RECEIVED

Prices farmers received for small grains in mid-July showed sharp decreases. Barley was off \$.24 per bushel compared with \$2.11 in mid-June. Oats were down \$.20, rye down \$.19, corn down \$.14 and wheat down \$.08 compared with a month earlier.

However, these declines in grain prices were almost completely offset by sharp increases in meat animal prices. The average price of cattle at \$25.80 was \$1.00 per hundred weight higher. Hogs were at their highest level since the \$26.70 of last January.

FEED PRICES DROP SLIGHTLY

Prices paid by North Carolina farmers for high protein and grain-products feeds on July 15 were variably lower except for mixed dairy feeds of 16 percent and 18 percent protein which were the same as a month earlier and an increase of \$.05 and \$.20 per hundred weight for cottonseed meal and tankage.

The greatest decrease in prices paid for feeds was for bran which dropped from \$4.50 in mid-June to \$4.35 in mid-July. Prices paid for corn meal, laying mash and scratch feed declined \$.10 each per hundred weight. Middlings and 20 percent protein feed dropped and \$20 percent protein feed

dropped only \$.05.
These declines in feed prices were brought about primarily by the influence of lower grain prices as shown by the accompanying prices received table.

The recent decline in feed prices, especially grain, suggests certain changes in the method the farmer usually sells his surplus corn, wheat, oats, barley, etc. Livestock prices have remained steady or increased during the time grain prices declined. Hence, it appears to be a good time for the farmer to feed his surplus grain through livestock and receive the benefit of higher livestock prices in relation to grain. For example, meat produced by feeding corn is more profitable than selling the corn directly to a buyer.

FARM SITUATION GOOD

If the old saying that a dry June fills the barns, then we should have a good crop year. It really is amazing what difference a good rain can do. However the secret is a slow rain. Heavy rains run off and wash too, leaving the soil little the better unless it has a good cover crop. Yes, everything is looking far better than even in mid-July. Crops that were on the verge of ruination have recovered greatly. Pastures and hay crops show little sign of conditions during the first half of July, following a three to seven weeks prolonged rainle ss "spell".

This year has been much like 1911 when it looked like crops were ruined, then a good rainy season came just when corn was starting to tassel. Some record yields resulted, when the soil was deep and conserved with organic matter - to hold a good reservoir. That was why Sheriff Charlie Parker of Hertford County made 196.5 bushels of shelled dry corn per acre as a Corn Club member - and proven too.

As of August 1st crop and soil conditions in North Carolina were favorable and greatly improved from early July's near-drought conditions. It was amazing how quickly the change occurred. Thus farmers are now active in tobacco harvesting and enjoying good pasturage.

ing and enjoying good pasturage.
It is too late for combatting rapidly growing grass and weeds in and away from cultivated cropsfor example peanuts and home gardens.

10. E. 5-148 "DE-6" VII'46 June DBAR for the pub average pr supplies so farmers on	Sin: You lie welfare ices and p lid by you atton shou the item	r report on e. This in the indexe is firm on t aid include is indicated	prices far formation, s publishe he 15th of		AU OF AGRICUIT sying for the commindividures of Agricultures o	GRICULTU LTURAL I hings they ual merchan gricultural I on this ques	RAL ECO STIMATE buy from y its like you Economics. tionnaire to Rederal	NOMICS s rou is very reelf, is key Please es o us in the	helpful is ot confiden ater below enclosed e	a providing tial and is the prices envelope, w	WASHING: informati used only i of farm eq hich need	Jan. 81, 1946 row, D. C. on necessa z computing uipment as z ne stam zoply zold	ng and		Name of					Repo	crted by				Date Sta	te	
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(3) Oream separators, band, 880-pertind heurly sapasity, with stand, esoh	(3) Milk cans, 10-gal, standard weight, each	bf fik pails, beavy tin-plated, 19-qt., easts	(a) Price	(b) Capacity Hp.	Parm wagons, double, without box, each	Wagon boxes, standard size, 26-in. depth, each	Horse collars, lestber, esch	Horse or mule collars, canvas, each	(18) Iron pipe, galvanized, 134-inch diameter, per foot	(10) Stoves, 6-bole kiteben renge, wood- or coal- burning, each	Gas rangue, 4-burner, with built-in oven, each	(22) Kerosena stoves, 5-burner rage, with built-in even, each	Washing machines, 16 gallon copacity, with gasoline motor, each	Washing machines, 18-gallon especity, cinetric power, each	Btodor twine, per 1h.	Rope, manila, per lib.	Rope, cottou, per Eb.	Load	(b) Weight	(a) Price Cents	weight,	Barber galvanized web (a) (a) 2-point, per apool of 80 rods \$ CX.	d) 1 wire, , standard ght (b) 4-point, per speed of 80 rods \$ CL	(35) Poultry netting, 2-in. meeth, medium wt., galvanised after weaving, per roll (5 x 150 ft.)	(36) Wire screen, galvanized, 16-mesh, 30-in, width, per timear ft.	Posts, steel, carolin	(36) Farm gates, galvanised stock; 14-ft., cocks
		-		-																							(OAEM)

COMPARISON OF ILLS PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICES *

COMMODITY	PRICES F		COMPA	Y OR RABLE CES	ACTUAL PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY		
	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948	JUNE 15 1948	JULY \$5 1948	JUNE 15 1948	JULY 15 1948	
	+ DOL	LARS -	- DOL	LARS -	- PEF	RCENT -	
COTTON, LB	. 352	. 330	.311	. 311	113	106	
WHEAT. BU	2.11	2.03	2.22	2.22	95	91	
CORN, BU	2.16	2.02	1.61	1.61	134	125	
OATS, BU	1.07	.866	1.00	1.00	107	87	
BARLEY, BU	1.68	1.42	1.55	1.55	108	92	
RYE, BU	1.91	1.72	1.81	1.81	-	95	
BEEF CATTLE, CWT	24.80	25.80	13.60	13.60	182	190	
HOGS, CWT	22.90	25.90	18.20	18.20	126	142	
LAMBS, CWT	25.00	26.20	14.80	14.80	169	177	
CHICKENS, LB	. 305	.319	. 286	. 286	107	112	
EGGS, DOZ	.434	. 458	.475	. 513	91	89	
MILK, (WHSE), CWT	4.67	4.80	3.58	3.74	130	128	

* Parity means a price for the farmer's product which will give it exchange value for things the farmer needs to buy equal to that in a specified base period, usually (1909-14).

THE USDA COUNTY COUNCIL

United States is expected to have this year than last if they harvest a county council organization representing the heads of each United States Department of Agriculture Agency. These represent the Agricultural Extension Service (County Agent); Production and Marketing Administration (AAA); Vocational Agriculture Education; Soil Conservationists; Rural Electrification; Farmers' Home Administration; Production Credit Association; and Forestry. They meet upon call or monthly, depending on location and current interest. The N. C. state USDA Council which meets each month represents all the different agriculture agencies North Carolina and United States INDEX NUMBERS located in Raleigh.

FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS JULY 15. 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

FFED PER	N. CAF	ROLINA	U.S.		
HUNDRED WEIGHT		15		15	
	1010	1948		1948	
	- 1	SOFI	AR	<u>S</u> -	
BRAN	4.50	4.35	4.13	3.79	
MIDDLINGS	4.70	4.65	4.51	4.26	
CORN MEAL	5.80	5.70	5.09	4.94	
COTTONSEED MEAL MIXED DAIRY FEED:	4.60	4.65	5.03	5.08	
16% PROTE IN	4.30	4.30	4.44	4.35	
18% PROTEIN	4.70	4.70	4.69	4.55	
20% PROTEIN	4.85	4.80	4.80	4.64	
LAYING MASH	5.80	5.70	5.40	5.34	
SCRATCH FEED		5.40	5.26	5.08	
TANKAGE	6.90	7.00	5.95	6.10	

FARM CENSUS ENDS

The 1947 legis ature changed the farm census from yearly to five year enumerations. County farm statistics will, hereafter, not be availar e for years later than 1947, the U.S. Census for 1949 crops a published about 1952.
These will obviously be obsolete.
For the first time in 30 years County figures will not be available for emergency or any needs by local leaders.

FARM CASH RECEIPTS DECLINE

Total cash receipts from the sale of farm products in North Carolina totaled 110 million dollars during the first four months of 1948, or 15 million dollars below the same period in 1947. decrease resulted from a decrease of 17 million in the sale of crops and an increase of 2 million in the sale of livestock and products

As of June 11, farm cash receipts in the United States for the first 6 months of 1948 were expected to exceed the same period in 1947. It is estimated that total receipts for the first half of 1948 will equal 12.6 billion dollars. This includes 8.1 billion dollars from livestock and 4.5 billion dollars from crops. As compared with y equal to that in expected to be up 5 percent, total livestock receipts slightly higher, and the two combined perhaps 3 percent higher.

Farmers will produce about one-Each county throughout the fourth less tobacco of all types the acres intended on March 1, and yields are average. Domestic use of tobacco will continue high because cigarette consumption will be close to last year's record. Output of other tobacco products other than cigarettes is expected to show little change from last year. The European Recovery Program is likely to increase tobacco exports in the year ahead above current levels. U. S. exports of manufactured tobacco during the 1947-48 fiscal year are expected to be from 166 to 191 million pounds declared weight less than 1946-47.

(N.C. PRICES RECEIVE	D 190	9-14	100 F	PERCE	IT)
COMMODITY	15	15	15	JULY 15	15
	1948	1948	1947	1946	1945
	N.	C. IN	NDEX N	NUMBER	RS
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	275	265	267	242	186
COTTON & COTTONSEED	290	271	286	254	176
GRAIN	220	211	209	209	156
MEAT ANIMALS	377	404	327	289	221
POULTRY	256	283	256	245	231
DAIRY PRODUCTS	232	234	214	209	172
MISCELLANEOUS	242	236	235	217	210
RATIO OF PRICES					
RECEIVED TO PAID*	110	106	116	122	108
	U	. S.	INDEX	NUMB	ERS
PRICES RECEIVED	295	301	276	244	206
PRICES PAID.					
INTEREST & TAXES	251	251	230	198	173
RATIO OF PRICES.					
RECEIVED TO PAID	118	120	120	123	119

* Ratio of N. C. Prices received to U. S. paid. * Revised

The 1948 U.S. spring pig crop totaled 51,421,000 head. Though larger than expected, it was the smallest crop since 1941 and about 1½ million head below the 1937-46 average.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS JULY 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

		N. CAR	OLINA	U.S.
		JUNE	JULY	JULY
COMMODITY	UNIT	15	15	15
		1948	1948	1948
		- <u>D</u> <u>O</u>	LLAR	<u>s</u> -
CORN	Bu.	1.97	1.99	2.02
WHEAT	BU.	2.43	2.24	2.03
OATS	Bu.	1.10	1.03	.866
BARLEY	Bu.	1.65	1.64	1.42
RYE	Bu.	2.50	2.32	1.72
SOYBEANS	Bu.	3.30	3.35	3.66
COWPEAS	Bu.	5.80	6.00	5.29
PEANUTS	LB.	.11	.109	.104
COTTON	LB.	.357	.333	.330
COTTONSEED	TON	83.00	80.00	96.00
WOOL	LB.	. 49	. 49	. 49
HOGS	CWT.	21.30	24.60	25.90
BEEF CATTLE	CWT.	18.90	19.50	25.80
VEAL CALVES	CWT.	24.80	24.90	26.70
SHEEP	CWT.	9.30	9.50	10.20
LAMBS	CWT.	22.40	23.80	26.20
CHICKENS	LB.	.32	.31	.319
EGGS	Doz.	. 48	.503	. 458
MILK: (WHSE.)	CWT.	5.25*	5.35	4.80
RETAIL	LB.	.198	.198	.186
BUTTER	LB.	. 58	. 58	.673
BUTTERFAT	LB.	.60	.62	.844
HAY: ALL LOSE.	TON	31.00	31.10	18.20
ALL BALED.	TON	33.50	33.70	22.80
POTATOES	Bu.	1.65	1.55	1.66
SWEETPOTATOES	Bu.	2.35	2.45	2.62
APPLES, COMM'L.	Bu.	2.50	1.95	2.13
PEACHES	Bu.		2.85	
EESPEDEZA SEED:	CWT.	15.20	14.20	13.10
KOREAN	CWT.	12.00	12.00	
KOBE	CWT.	18.00	16.00	
COM.& TENN.76	CWT.	22.50	20.00	*
SERICEA	CWT.	23.00	22.00	1
* Rouised				

THIS SPECIAL ISSUE

The mid-month Farm Report has not supplied enough space to present nearly enough of the important monthly report results. Thus, we are trying two issues. This permits of issuing the Prices results two weeks earlier than was available before.

Several reports developed from the 10th to the 25th of the month can be used in this issue, thus too, permitting more room for the general mid-month report issue. It all means better services to our volunteer reporters as well as to agricultural leaders.

Even after preparing this issue, several important reports must be omitted, along with too great condensation of some offered herewith.

Economic



JULY PRICE INDEX

The mid-July index of prices received for "All farm products" by North Carolina farmers was 265 percent of the 1909-14 average. The July index reflected a 10-point drop below the June index of 275 and was about the same as a year ago. Recent drops in the average price received for cotton by our farmers were primarily responsible for the decline in index for all products.

Among individual indexes, that for meat animals soared to an all-time high. At 404 percent, the July index was 25 points above the previous record high of 379, which occurred in January of this year. Increasingly higher prices received for all types of farm meat animals were helpful in pushing the index to a new peak.

the index to a new peak.

The "poultry" index also reflected a noticeable increase over the index of a month earlier.

The July index at 283 percent was 27 points higher than the June index and also above the index of a year ago. Higher prices received for eggs during the middle of July accounted for the increase in this index.

The grain price index dropped 9 points from the June measure of 220. This lower index for grains was brought about primarily by decreases in prices received for wheat, oats, barley and rye. However, the index for grains still remained above that of a year earlier.

Declining prices received for cotton and cottonseed influenced the index for these two commodities. This index was 19 points below that of 290 for June this year and 15 points below the July, 1947, index of 286.

Continued gains in prices received by U. S. farmers for meat animals, dairy, and poultry products more than offset declines in prices for grains, soybeans, and cotton to raise the mid-July national index of prices received by farmers to 301. This index is 2 percent over a month earlier.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT ON FARMS

During the past 14 years rapid progress has been made in making electricity available to North Carolina farmers. The table below gives a comparison of the percent of farms having specified electrical equipment in North Carolina and the United States. It will be noted from this table that the proportion of North Carolina farms, as of July 1, 1947, having specified electrical equipment is less than the U.S. average on every item.

ESTIMATED PERCENT OF NORTH CAROLINA FARMS HAVING SPECIFIED ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT AS OF JULY 1, 1947.

TYPE OF EQUIPMENT	PERCENT OF FARMS HAVING EQUIPMENT			
ELECTRICAL REFRIGERATOR ELECTRIC WASHING MACHINE ELECTRIC WATER SYSTEM ELECTRIC WATER HEATER ELECTRIC SEWING MACHINE FLECTRIC SCOUMD CLEANER	N.C. 27 4 23 18 5	38 12 43 27 10 7 25		

CHICK HATCHINGS INCREASE

Production of baby chicks by commercial hatcheries in North Carolina continued to run higher than last year with an output of 3,793,000 chicks during June. Although this was 23 percent higher than last year, the June hatch was 30 percent less than May. If the normal seasonal trend is followed, hatchings will continue down reaching their low point in September or October. The demand for broiler chicks remained strong during June. Some hatcherymen report that their operations are being limited by the scarcity of hatching eggs.

During the first 6 months of 1948 chicks hatched by commercial hatcheries equalled 27.2 million as compared with 26.4 million during the same period in 1947. The increase in chicks hatched in 1948 occurred from March through June, since January and February hatchings were below the same months in 1947.

FEWER FARM LABOR AT MORE COST

Total farm employment in the South Atlantic States, which includes North Carolina has decreased five percent from 2,279,000 on July 1, 1947. This change in total farm employment was due to a decrease of about seven percent in the number of family workers and an increase of about three percent in the number of hired workers.

Farm wage rates in North Carolina have continued to climb since 1946 and are now at the highest level on record. The table below shows a comparison of average rates paid on July 1 of this year and last year.

The farm labor situation is serious. Farmers are facing declines in prices they receive for their products against rising costs of purchases and labor. This is a matter of doing their own work with better machinery, and the least efficient hired labor.

NORTH CAROLINA FARM WAGE RATES
JULY 1, 1947 AND JULY 1, 1948

CATE	GORY OF LABOR	1947	1948
2. PER	MONTH WITH BOARD	\$55.00	\$59.00
	MONTH WITHOUT BOARD	77.00	82.00
	DAY WITH BOARD	3.40	3.75

POULTRY

CHICKENS RAISED ON FARMS 1948.

Preliminary estimates place the number of chickens raised on farms in North Carolina during 1948 at 18,894,000. This is 6 percent below the number raised last year and 13 percent fewer than average. There has been a steady decline in the number of chickens raised on farms in the State since the war time peak of 25,578,000 raised in 1944.

COMMERCIAL BROILER AREAS

The Chatham commercial broiler area reports now represent a year's trend for eggs set, chicks hatched, chicks placed and prices. Estimates of approximate weekly volume of broilers are available. Comparative trends are thus available for the first time, since a year's records are first required.

The Wilkes area reports were started July 1, and are now becoming fairly well reported. The usual confusion exists in some minds. Economic information is like education, it is slow in being established and in beneficial results. Yet all know that it is needful and enlightening. A few weeks more and Wilkes will see the light.

There are many small commercial egg and broiler producing areas in North Carolina, that are not included above. This industry is growing, and these reports should aid in stabilizing safe planning.





VOLUNTEER SPECIALTY REPORTERS

Of the 72 groups of specialty reporters, all represent just about all phases of farming. They were recommended to us as being dependable, cooperative, with good judgments, loyal and otherwise worthy of the privileges of the Crop Reporting Service.

All serve without salary or pay. Most receive benefits far beyond the time contributed. Long experiences result in increased benefits, or ability to judge

Specialty reports include: Prices Farmers Receive; Prices Farmers Pay (several groups); Poultry; Livestock; Fruck Crops; Neather-Crops; Special Crops; Labor; Threshers; Millers, Storage; Agricultural leaders (several groups); Ginners; Warehousemen; County Officials; County Councils; and many others.

and the

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE Division of Statistics

D. S. Coltrane, Commissioner of Agriculture

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Frank Parker Agricultural Statistician in Charge

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AUGUST 1946

FARM REPORT

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HYBRID CORN ACREAGE

North Carolina's hybrid corn seed movement started about 10 years ago when only 2,000 acres were seeded. This acreage increased rather slowly until 1946 when 121,000 acres, or 5.5 percent, were planted out of a total corn acreage of 2,193,000. In 1947 hybrid corn had increased to 14 percent of the 2,160,000 acres planted in all corn.

It is estimated that about onefourth of the 2,333,000 acres planted in corn in 1948 was seeded with hybrids. While in 1938 only one acre out of a thousand was planted with hybrid seed, in 1948 there was planted one acre out of four.

North Carolina is still far behind some other sections, particularly the corn belt states, where almost 100 percent of the corn is grown from hybrid seed. This is due to the necessity of belatedly developing southern hybrid seed, which are now being produced.

For the Nation as a whole,65 million or 75 percent of the total 1948 corn acreage was planted with hybrid seed. The Nation's percent of hybrids this year compares with 14.9 percent in 1938. 52.4 percent in 1943 and 72 percent in 1947. In 1933 only 0.1 percent, or 143,000 acres, of the U. S. Crop were in hybrids. As pointed out above, this is the same percent which was seeded in Morth Carolina in 1938.

OPENING DATES FOR TOBACCO MARKETS

	1948 SEASON	
TYPE	BELT	OPENING DATE
14 13 12 11B 11A	GEORGIA-FLORIDA S. C N. C. BORDER EASTERN N. C. MIDDLE BELT OLD BELT BURLEY BELT	JULY 22 AUGUST 3 AUGUST 19 SEPTEMBER 2 SEPTEMBER 13 NO DATE SET

GRAIN STOCKS: Stocks of corn in all positions in North Carolina on July 1 totaled 16,831,000 bushels - 16 percent larger than on the same date last year. Of this total 98% were on farms and two percent were in storage off farms. Off farm stocks were 40 percent above a year ago.

Carry-over stocks of 1947 wheat as of july 1 this year, were more than double those last year. Wheat stocks in all storage July 1 totaled 897,000 bushels, of this amount 80 percent was still on farms with 20 percent storage off farms. A year ag o carry-over stocks of wheat totaled 424,000 bushels - 82 percent on farms and 18% stored off farms.

Stocks of old oats in North Carolina as of July 1 totaled 1,420,000 bushels nearly one-third larger than the carry-over on July 1, 1947. All but 25,000 bushels of this total was still on farms. Carry-over stocks last July 1 totaled 1,083,000 bushels with all except 53,000 bushels still on farms on this date.

HONEY: North Carolina beekeepers had 187,000 colonies of bees July 1 and 8 percent more than a year ago. New spring colonies totaled 28,000 - 15 percent of all colonies on hand July 1, compared with 19 percent last year. Winter loss of colonies was 12 percent, 7 percent less than losses during the winter and spring of 1946+47. The condition of bees on July 1 was reported as 85 percent - 1 percent lower than a year earlier. The condition of nectar plants was reported as 76 percent of normal, 3 points below a year ago.

The nation as a whole had a total of 5,718,000 colonies of bees on hand the first of July-3 percent decline during the year. This was the first year of decline following a period of 4 successive years of increase. The decrease was due mostly to heavy winter loss of colonies and the low honey price. New spring colonies showed 20 percent of the number of colonies on

hand July 1.

